



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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University of Portland to Honor Circuit Judge Edward Leavy

PORTLAND, ORE. – Senior Judge Edward Leavy of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit is headed back to college, if only for one special day.

Judge Leavy will return to the University of Portland, his alma mater, on Sunday, May 4, to receive a Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) degree recognizing his extraordinary legal service and scholarship. The presentation will occur during the school's annual spring commencement ceremony, scheduled for 2 p.m. at the Earle A. and Virginia H. Chiles Center on campus.

Judge Leavy graduated from the University of Portland in 1950 and went on to earn his LL.B. from Notre Dame Law School in 1953. Except for brief stints in private practice and as a deputy district attorney, he has spent virtually his entire career – more than 50 years – as a judge of the federal and state courts.

The 78-year-old jurist, who is a lifelong Oregon resident, maintains chambers in Portland's historic Pioneer Courthouse.

Nominated by President Reagan, Judge Leavy has served on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the nation's largest and busiest federal appellate court, since 1987. President Reagan also nominated him to serve as a federal trial judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon, a post he held from 1984 to 1987. In addition, he served the district court as an appointed magistrate judge from 1976 to 1984.

Judge Leavy's federal service also includes a recently-completed, seven-year term on the nation's most secret court, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act Court of Review.

On the state side, Judge Leavy sat on the Circuit Court of Lane County from 1961 to 1976, which included service as a justice pro tem of the Oregon Supreme Court in 1974. He also served as a

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judge of the District Court of Lane Country from 1957 to 1961, and as a Lane County deputy district attorney from 1954 to 1957.

Judge Leavy has presided over many major cases, including the guilty plea in the 1980s that caused Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh to flee his 64,000-acre ranch in Oregon and return to India. He also mediated a plea bargain in the case of former government nuclear scientist Wen Ho Lee, who was accused of spying for the Chinese government and eventually plead guilty to one felony charge.

Judge Leavy and his wife, Eileen, raised four children and boast five grandchildren. In addition to work and family, he is active in the U.S. District Court of Oregon Historical Society.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit hears appeals of decisions from federal trial courts and federal agencies in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The court is authorized 28 judgeships and currently has one vacancy. In addition, 22 senior judges sit on the court.

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